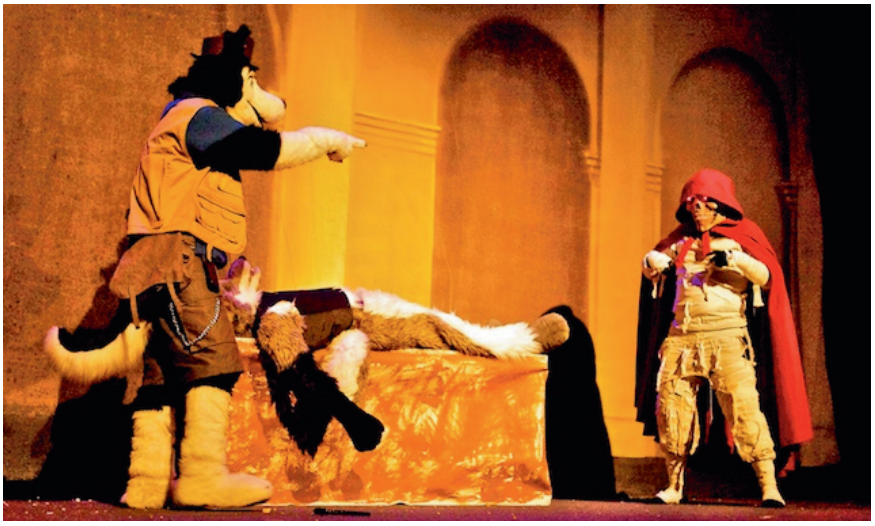
The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Saturday, September 4rd, 2010 #9



Fursuit Theatre Becomes A Reality

The first full-fledged fursuit stage play in the history of Eurofurence had all the ingredients of a good adventure story: two fearless treasure-hunters, a nefarious undead high-priest with a hunger for world domination and a whole bunch of shiny special effects and stage props.

Happy-go-lucky archæologist Jordan Blake (EZ_Wolf) and his cautious friend Alex Dyson (Kwisa) are exploring the spider-infested catacombs of the Temple of the Four Winds. Their quest for the Eye of Tamamet, a mythic jewel, is riddled with dangers, among others: loose boulders. When Jordan accidentally moves a skull off its pedestal, he awakens Matuth, the evil spirit of a former temple priest. Matuth takes control of his mind and makes him shoot at his friend Alex, who has found the Eye. Moved by the death of his friend, Jordan regains his self-control, fights and defeats the demon. The power of the jewel restores Alex to life and vanishes. Jordan concludes: "I found out I already had the most valued thing in life... true friendship!"

"Jordan Blake and the Temple of the Four Winds" was received with standing ovations. It was an impressive début by all standards. First and foremost, the play written and directed by Shay proved once and for all that convincing storytelling beyond funny skits is possible for fursuiters. The lack of facial expression was compensated by gestures and body language. The dialogues were well-written and voice actors Shay and Twll did their best to make the characters come alive through their dialogue lines. Sophisticated props, a full-size backdrop and beautifully edited video sequences added to the flair of the story. While there is room for improvement when it comes to plot and pacing, the production radiated an air of quality and promise. "There are many more plays to come," promised an emotionally overwhelmed Shay after the successful début. (lux; photo: ang)

Furs stampede in at art-show close. photo: tekumseh

Going Once! Going Twice! Sold!

No matter how spacious the art show aisles were this year, when the art show closing drew near, they were completely clogged by a mass of frantic last-minute bidders and curious spectators. Later on the main stage, seasoned auctioneer Uncle Kage did his usual hard selling. Whether he was mock-insulting a "soft-voiced pussy boy in the back" or rounding odd numbers to the next multiple of fifty, he knew exactly how to egg on potential buyers and tickle them into bidding more than they would have dared to in a more sober state of mind.

A higher than usual share of items were sold for charity this year and some sold very well. Top of the the class ShinigamiGirl's lion banner currently still hanging in the lobby at €350, a red fox partial suit by Lance Ikegawa at €750 and the last piece of all, an original "Usagi Yojimbo" sketch by guest of honour Stan Sakai at a mind-boggling €1000. The arguably most sought-after piece of the auction, Tani DaReal's humorous "Nightmare before Eurofurence" changed hands for a respectable €400. What will be remembered is that you had better "not fuck with the auctioneer" and that nobody can say "Aufgewertete Getränkeunterlegematte" quite like Uncle Kage. (lux)

2 looks upon Kage on stage. Photo by tek.

Kage vs 2

Once again the two furry kings of comedy gave an incredibly entertaining performance even if their usual routine was shaken up a bit by this year's case of delayitis, which afflicted much this evening. Kage and 2 simply skipped their individual acts and combined it into the famous Kage vs. 2 comedy duo right from the start.

They were each exchanging their newest adventures: Kage's encounter with the Wagnerian customs officer Helga and a Christstollen (fruit cake) possessing the density of C4-explosives at the airport in Frankfurt; 2 on the other hand gave us insight into the female mind and advised every straight fur to go on a quest to find the mighty all-knowing clitoracle to help them understand a woman's feelings in the future and to avoid a minefield of œstrogen grenades, raining down onto their sorry tails. Those were just two examples of their repertoire this year but no matter what skit, they all had the audience in stitches. (cur)

Helping Paws

Cheetahs are a favourite among Eurofurence visitors even without the Serengeti motto. But in their home territory, the world´s fastest cat has the odds against it. They are built to be fast, but they are also fragile; their genetic diversity is narrow and cattle farmers regard any predator on "their" land as a threat to livestock. The worst threat to the survival of the species is habitat destruction, brought about by western farming methods, says Markus "garra" Haferkamp, who gave a presentation for the Cheetah Conservation Fund Namibia this afternoon.

To give the 30,000 cheetahs in Namibia a fighting chance, the fund takes a 3-pronged approach: first, to research cheetah behaviour and to track population; second, to promote eradication of the invasive acacia species, by promoting harvest and fabrication into "Bushblok" fuel bricks; and finally a campaign to educate and promote habitat-friendly farming practices. They promote the idea of "eco-tourism" as a worthwhile economic engine, best maintained with a healthy population of native African wildlife – including, of course, cheetahs. These activities are supported by fundraising, a tourist lodge, visitor centres as well as by "internships" paid by volunteers willing to assist in field research project. Chances may be slim, but at least the beautiful tearmarked feline is not alone in his fight for survival. Your donation could make a difference. (rex/lux)

Comic by Pegla

Let the Games Begin!

The fifth anniversary of the fursuit gameshow took place today with the eight best-scoring teams from the preliminary qualifying round. Other events taking place close to the same time had probably caused a slightly smaller audience to attend, but there was still a good amount of spectators to watch the fursuiters compete in the savannah-themed challenges.

This year's format had two contests determining the team going forward – allowing everyone to try their paw on at least two different events before getting eliminated. Or in this case, getting banished to the plains. Competitive events and scoring went through smoothly, even if the referees got slightly disoriented a couple of times, taking a moment to choose which team had been competing on which side of the stage.

There were some some novel challenges, including fishing for gems from a watering hole and balancing out the gameshow trophies by placing different sizes of unicorn plushies on the other bucket. Contests involving precision were included; for example, pulling thin metal

Suiters competing on stage. Photo: ang

wires one by one out of a perforated metal waste paper basket with the upper portion of the basket filled with styrofoam balls. The challenge was to not cause any of the balls to drop to the bottom.

A couple of contests from the qualifying round returned in a changed form, including sharpshooting with two kinds of soft projectile weaponry this time around. Also, the knowledge of African wildlife was quizzed, having the fursuiters place together the correct animal tracks with the species that would leave them.

Spectators were even involved: holding diseased bugs one event, and different colours of fruit in another for collection by the competing suiters. Feeding the audience was taken care of by having contestants exchange coloured pieces of paper for similar coloured sweets. In the end, Cueball and Ravell emerged victorious. (hHP)

Photo of the Day

The cougar's patience pays off when the wiener comes up for air. Photo: ang

Announcements:

The Game-show: Dr Furringstone start-time has been moved to 16:30.

Today's Timetable

Furry Music Café (Piano Bar).....15:00–17:00

Art Show
Sales and Pickup.....14:00-18:00

Dealers' Den
General Admission.....12:00–18:00

Fursuit Photoshoot (Magdeburg)
Registration..... 13:30—14:30
Shooting.....14:30—18:00

Supersponsor Exclusive
The Ugly American (Dresden).....15:00–16:30

Main Stage
Gameshow Dr. Furringstone.....16:30–18:30
Ogwambi! – The Eurofurence
Pawpet Show.....19:00–22:00
Big Blue Dance.....22:30–

Fursuit
Fursuit Parade.....12:00–13:00
Fibreglass Heads (Halle)..... 15:00–16:30
Electronics for Fursuiters (Halle)..16:30–18:00
Improve your Acting Skills (Stutt)..13:30–15:00

Art and Writing
Creating Comics (München).....13:30–15:00
Intro to 3D Using Blender (Halle).....13:30–15:00
Professional Story Telling (Nürn).....13:30-16:30
Small-Press Publishing (Mün).....15:00–16:30
Anthropomorphic Anatomy (Dres)...16:30–18:00
Getting Published: How to Polish,
Proof and Prepare (Nürn).....16:30–18:00

Events
Motofurs Meeting (Parking Lot)..13:30—15:00
Science, Pseudoscience and
Outright Crap (Dres).....13:30—15:00
Pawpet Round Table (Stutt).....15:00—16:30
Divers Meeting (Pool)..... 16:30—18:00
DJing Round Table (Stutt)..... 16:30—18:00
Furries in History (Mün).....16:30—18:00

Recurring
Artists' Lounge (Dresden).....22:30–
Dance Dance Revolution (Stutt).....22:30–
Video Game Corner (München)..... 22:30–
Game Corner (Halle)..... 22:30–

Smooth sailing ahead

The convention has reached the half-way mark. The guests have settled in, the first, large events have passed and the hotel staff themselves have now experienced a good dose of "furriness", time for a little recap.

So much has happened since last Eurofurence causing the convention guests had to adapt to many changes. First and foremost is the fact that the con is no longer situated in the rural countryside, isolated from the everyday life of the locals. Eurofurence has arrived in the heart of a large and historic city and while we are all euphoric about the possibilities that this new consite offers to us, a lot of attendees feel a little overwhelmed by the attention Eurofurence is receiving – be it from the media or the local public.

It will take a little getting used to when it comes to the fact that non-furs can walk into the hotel, wanting to get a first hand impression of the colourful, strange creatures they have read about in the newspaper or have seen on the local television. Most of the little kinks that were experienced during the first day of the con have been ironed out hopefully meaning the rest of the event should run much smoother.

Yet there are still a few smaller patches of roughness ahead. Our own con-staff had to realize just how spoiled they have been by the more than excellent relationship that had been established in the Ringberg Hotel. Particularly in that a within a more business oriented environment, conveniences have a price tag. And indeed, it is very easy to drop quite a sum of cash behind these six days. The higher prices of goods and services are to be expected of a hotel as prestigious as the Maritim. The service offered is excellent and the staff is quick to respond and are truly competent.

Yet it is clear that we are a demographic that both the city as well as the hotel haven't experienced yet. Most of the feedback is positive. Children are delighted, and most general folks are amused and entertained. Yet some seem to be a little overwhelmed, especially throughout the surrounding stores and restaurants. It is obvious that such a large number of customers is unusual for the city and while there might have been some tension, it seems to be lessening as things progress and we all get better acquainted. (cur)

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch